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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. BRITISH GOVERNMENT BREEZES THROUGH RHODESIA DEBATE

ACCORDING TO EMBASSY LONDON, PARLIAMENT'S OCTOBER 20 DEBATE ON RHODESIA PROVED LESS TRYING FOR THE GOVERNMENT THAN EXPECTED. IN THE DEBATE:

--DODGING QUESTIONS EFFECTIVELY, FOREIGN SECRETARY CROSLAND STRESSED THAT, AS FAR AS THE UK IS CONCERNED, IAN SMITH'S FIVE POINTS HAVE NO SPECIAL STANDING. (CROSLAND IMPLIED THAT OTHER PARTIES MAY NOT SHARE THE BRITISH VIEW).

--WITH NO APPARENT STRATEGY, SHADOW FOREIGN SECRETARY MAUDLING CALLED FOR A MORE VIGOROUS BRITISH ROLE IN
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THE RHODESIAN INTERIM GOVERNMENT AND HINTED THAT THE

CONSERVATIVES WILL RECONSIDER THEIR STAND ON SANCTIONS IF THE GENEVA TALKS FAIL DUE TO BLACK EXTREMISM.

EMBASSY COMMENT: THOUGH THE TORIES DID NOT STRIKE AT THE GOVERNMENT AS HARD AS IN THE PREVIOUS DEBATE, THEY WILL SEIZE ON ANY OPPORTUNITY TO CRY "DOUBLE CROSS" ONCE THE

GENEVA MEETING BEGINS. WE SHOULD EXPECT THE INFLUENTIAL RHODESIA LOBBY IN THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY TO BECOME MORE ACTIVE AS THE GENEVA TALKS PROCEED. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) LONDON 16951, 10/22.)

2. PRC: TENG HSIAO-PING ON THE REBOUND?

IN THE VIEW OF CONSULATE GENERAL HONG KONG, SOME ASPECTS OF TENG HSAIO-PING'S "LINE" MAY BE RESTORED BY THE NEW PRC GOVERNMENT, AND TENG HIMSELF MAY EVENTUALLY RETURN TO A POSITION OF PROMINENCE. SIGNS THAT TENG MAY REEMERGE INCLUDE:

--CHARGES THAT THE "SHANGHAI FOUR" FALSIFIED AND DISTORTED MAO'S INSTRUCTIONS AND, BY IMPLICATION, CARRIED THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST TENG TOO FAR;

--THE SUDDEN DROP-OFF IN CRITICISM OF TENG AND OF HIS ALLEGED "COUNTERREVOLUTIONARY REVISIONIST LINE; AND

--THE APPARENT REINSTATEMENT OF SEVERAL OF TENG'S ASSOCIATES WHO WERE PURGED EARLIER THIS YEAR.

THE CONSULATE GENERAL ADDS THAT, WITH THE NEW LEADERSHIP PREOCCUPIED BY MORE PRESSING PROBLEMS, TENG'S REEMERGENCE MIGHT COME LATER RATHER THAN SOONER, PERHAPS ONLY AFTER AN OFFICIAL INVESTIGATION. (CONFIDENTIAL) HONG KONG 12453, 10/22.)

3. THE PHILIPPINES: IMELDA TAKES A LESSON FROM CHIANG CHING

IN A SPIRITED CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR SULLIVAN OCTO-
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BER 20, IMELDA MARCOS SAID CHIANG CHING, WHOM SHE HAD ENVISIONED AS THE NEXT RULER OF CHINA AFTER A 1974 TRIP TO THE PRC, SHOULD HAVE MOVED DECISIVELY AND IMMEDIATELY TO SEIZE POWER AFTER MAO'S DEATH. THE AMBASSADOR COMMENTS THAT, GIVEN THE PARALLEL IMELDA HAS SEEN BETWEEN HER POSITION AND CHIANG CHING'S, HER CANDID OBSERVATION SHOULD BE TAKEN AS AN INDICATION OF HER OWN CONTINGENCY PLAN IF HER HUSBAND WERE SUDDENLY TO LEAVE THE POLITICAL SCENE. (CON-

FIDENTIAL) MANILA 16414 (LIMDIS), 10/22.)

4. RABIN COMMENTS ON ARAB-ISRAELI AFFAIRS

DURING A RECENT SESSION WITH DEPUTY DEFENSE SECRETARY CLEMENTS, PRIME MINISTER RABIN NOTED:

--BUILT-IN INSTABILITY IN ARAB COUNTRIES PRECLUDES A PEACEFUL MIDDLE EAST, WHICH MUST AWAIT A TRANSITION IN ARAB SOCIETY.

--AS LONG AS FULL PEACE CANNOT BE ACHIEVED, ISRAEL WILL CONTINUE ON ITS PATH OF INTERIM AGREEMENTS, WHICH HAVE BROUGHT BOTH RISKS AND ADVANTAGES.

--BASIC ISRAELI POLICY REMAINS MOVEMENT TOWARD PEACE OR TOWARD TERMINATION OF THE STATE OF WAR. NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD PROCEED ON THE MOST VIABLE OF THESE ALTERNATIVES.

--HOPEFULLY, THE US WILL NOT BE TOO EAGER TO TAKE THE DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVE IN 1977 AND WILL ENCOURAGE TRENDS WHICH ARE ALREADY APPARENT IN THE ARAB WORLD.

--THE SITUATION FIVE YEARS AGO IN LEBANON WAS MORE FAVORABLE FOR ISRAEL THAN ANY POSSIBLE OUTCOME OF THE PRESENT STRUGGLE. (CONFIDENTIAL) TEL AVIV 7201, 10/21.)

5. PORTUGUESE COMMUNISTS SAVE FACE ON NATO MEETING

"AFTER EXAMINING MORE THOROUGHLY THE OBJECTIVES OF NEXT MONTH'S NATO PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY" IN WILLIAMSBURG, THE CONFIDENTIAL

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PCP CONCLUDED THAT THEIR "PARTICIPATION COULD NOT BE POSITIVE" AND HENCE, "DECLINED THE INVITATION" TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PORTUGUESE DELEGATION. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) LISBON 7247, 10/22.)

6. GDR SENDS A MESSAGE ON HUMANITARIAN CASES

WITHIN THE PAST THREE WEEKS, THE GDR HAS DECIDED TO RESOLVE SIX OF OUR MOST TROUBLESOME HUMANITARIAN CASES AS WELL AS THREE LESS DIFFICULT ONES. EMBASSY BERLIN COMMENTS THAT THE GDR MAY BE SEEKING TO:

--IMPROVE BILATERAL RELATIONS;

--APPEAR IN A FAVORABLE LIGHT IN ANY REVIEW OF US-GDR

RELATIONS AFTER OUR PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS; AND

--ESTABLISH A BETTER TRACK RECORD IN PREPARATION FOR
THE BELGRADE CSCE REVIEW CONFERENCE.

THE EMBASSY RECOMMENDS WE EXPRESS APPRECIATION FOR THE
SATISFACTORY RESOLUTION OF THESE CASES. (CONFIDENTIAL)
BERLIN 6968, 10/21.) KISSINGER

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